SIRIUS

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TERI SUE

Wandering Star

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TERI SUE WOOD CREATOR, WRITER, AND ARTIST • PRESTON A.SWEET PROOF-READER

"The End is near."

I don't know about you, but it's a pretty sobering thing to be writing the second to the last WANDERING STAR editorial. To know that there will be only one more, and then I will be done, that I will not be writing any more adventures for Cassandra Andrews, or Madison, or Mekon, Ella, and all the rest. To know that this period of my life will soon be over, and I'll be entering the next.

Knowing this, I've been thinking a lot lately about how it all began. Way back in 1992, when I finally began to seriously consider writing and self-publishing my own little comic. My friends and my family were not very supportive of the idea. In face they were getting kinda tired of this silly dream I wasn't letting go of. You know the one, the "I want to work in comics" dream... I mean, after all, I was twenty-seven years old, and the only one of my friends not married, or at least financially self-sufficient. I should stop this "gazing up at the stars" stuff, and get a "real" job.

In their defense, it had been seven years. Seven years of submissions, and working nowhere jobs so I could have time to "polish my craft." And what did I have to show for it? Not a thing. And there I was, with not even enough money to move out on my own, thinking of getting a loan for SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS to pay for publishing a comic! Had I gone insane? I mean REALLY! Had I written a story before? No. Did anybody know who I was? No. Was there any indication AT ALL that this comic might do anything other than crash and burn? Nope. Looking back, it really was the stupidest thing I'd ever considered doing. But I did it anyway.

My friends and family thought it was nuts. They thought it was even nuttier when the sales came in, and even thought my orders were low enough to guarantee that I'd lose pretty much all the money I'd sunk into book one. I had decided to sink even more money into book two... And I bet you can all guess what they thought of me when book two's sales sunk even lower, and yet I still decided to beg, borrow and steal what I could to print book three...

Throughout the next two years of major mis-calculations, over-work, and distributor-woes, I think that the only thing that kept me going was you. All of you out there, who have written to me, supported me, told your friends about WANDERING STAR, and bought those crazy CBG ads. WANDERING STAR wouldn't still be here without you. I don't know how many times, on some day when I was tired of all the mess, and feeling very blue, one of you would send me a letter that made all the difference in the world. Just some words on paper to say "hi," and let me know that you liked WANDERING STAR. That's what kept me going.

So, if you'll allow me, I'd like to dedicate these last two issues to you. For being there. Thanks.

But I don't want this editorial to be all mushy, so let's get on to business. Hey, I'm gardening again, and I haven't killed anything yet. Yeeeeaaa! It's really cool, and I'm majorly psyched. I bought these "E-Z Seed Starter" kits, and a bunch seeds, and they're growing. Really! Now, if they'll just STAY alive. Heh. But, my books say they should. Yes, I've gone the whole nine yards. I've tested the soil, added what it was lacking, tilled it, and got it ready to go. My Vegas will be going outside in a couple of weeks when they're big enough, and I've already scattered a buncha flower seeds I got in the mail outside in my flower beds. You know, I can feel it. This is the year I'm a green thumb! But of course, since I won't know how it's all going to go for a couple months, you all just gonna have to buy DARKLIGHT Book One !!!!! to see what happens! Nah! A cliff-hanger! Not-diggity-dog!

In other news, you may have noticed, I've been sorta pushing Carla Speed McNeil's FINDER lately. But I kinda goofed. Preston tells me that you can't just look up FINDER in Previews. Everything is by publisher and there's no cross-reference. TOMORROW! Take note!! So he suggested that if I really wanted to push her book, I should mention her company's name. LIGHTSPEED PRESS, so you could look it up. He even went so far as to give me the order codes, which I think is just nifty, so here they are: FINDER #1-SEP961062; FINDER #2-NOV961076; FINDER #3-JAN971142; and FINDER #4-MAR971189. Ta-da! Now go order them!

Another book I'd like to mention is Jim Valentino's new book, A TOUCH OF SILVER from IMAGE. It's about growing up, dealing with life, and comic books. What could be better? Heh. But really, check it out. This one's probably going to win some awards this year.

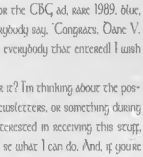
Ah, I should probably bring up some really bad news that you've probably already heard about. OVERSTREET'S FAN is closing its doors. This floored me when I heard about it because I consider the gang over there, especially Arnold T. Blumberg, friends of mine. I only hope they can find new jobs fast, and I hope you all will join me in sending them best wishes.

There is one link in this for WANDERING STAR, and that's the contest OVERSTREET'S FAN ran in its February issue for the naming of one of my DARKLIGHT characters. Arnold, who really should be more worried about his own welfare and not bothering over a silly little contest, called to let me know that when word gets out, even though OVERSTREET is committed to follow thorough with it, people may hesitate to send in entries. So, anyway, if you were wondering, don't worry. Arnold's scarding behind it, and so am I. So, send in them entries!

Oh, and speaking of contests, we have a winner for the CBG ad, rare 1989, blue, Book Two, small press WANDERING STAR. Everybody say, "Congrats, Dane V. Hill of Herndon, VA!!!" And a great big thank you to everybody that entered! I wish you all could have won.

In other news, I got another crazy idea, wanna hear it? I'm thinking about the possibility of maybe doing some press releases, or mini-newsletters, or something during my off months prepping DARKLIGHT. If you're interested in receiving this stuff, send me a postcard with your current address and I'll see what I can do. And, if you're a retailer, really, send me a card! You can even copy off whatever I send ya, and give out copies to your customers! I promise whatever I do will be at least as weird as my editorials, so it shouldn't be boring.

Well, I guess that's everything. Now, go grab some popcorn and read the story, okay?



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HAVE YOU EVER MET A TRILLIAN, ALDAR?
ONE OF THE OLDER ONES.
NOT A YOUNG ONE, LIKE ELLI.
MOOF
No...
...BUT, I'VE READ ABOUT SUCH ENCOUNTERS.
THEY'RE RARE.
THE OLD ONES USUALLY DON'T LEAVE TRILLIA.
yes...
...EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS,
...LIKE SAVING THE UNIVERSE.

WE HAD **SEVENTY-TWO** TRILLIANS ON BOARD THE WANDERING STAR ON OUR TRIP BACK TO THE ALLIANCE,

...MOST OF WHOM WERE OVER 500 YEARS OLD,

QUITE COMPARABLY DIFFERENT FROM ELLI, WHO I DISCOVERED WAS ONLY 22 YEARS OLD. A VERITABLE **EMBRYO** BY THEIR STANDARDS,

IT... WAS INTIMIDATING.

NOT THAT THEY WERE ANYTHING BUT KIND AND UNDERSTANDING, *BUT*...

BUT?

BUT,

...YES...

...WELL...

I... READ A STORY, YEARS AND YEARS AGO, BEFORE I LEFT EARTH.

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS CALLED,

...BUT IN IT A CHARACTER WAS SHOWN JUST WHERE HE STOOD IN THE **BIG PICTURE.**

AS IN,

..."THIS IS THE UNIVERSE, YOU ARE ***HERE.***"

OKAY...

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

ON TRILLIA, THROUGH MADISON,

...I SAW WHAT WE COULD BE,

...WHAT I COULD BE,

...AND...

I TOUCHED A WORLD MIND FULL OF BEINGS EVOLVED BEYOND THE NEED FOR BODIES, OR FOR HATRED, OR PREJUDICE, AND...

...I SAW JUST HOW ***HOPELESSLY FAR AWAY*** I WAS FROM THAT IDEAL.

HOW FLAWED AND FALLEN I WAS.

AND,

...I KNEW THAT THEY KNEW THAT, TOO.

AND YOU DIDN'T FEEL WORTHY TO BE IN THEIR PRESENCE, IS THAT IT?

YES.

BUT HEY—

...AT LEAST I WASN'T THE ONLY **WRETCHED, FALLEN** CREATURE ON BOARD.

MEKON WAS THERE, TOO.

AND MADISON.
WELL, NO, ACTUALLY.
MADISON WAS FAIRLY EXTRAORDINARY TO BEGIN WITH, SO HE WAS QUITE TAKEN WITH THE TRILLIANS.

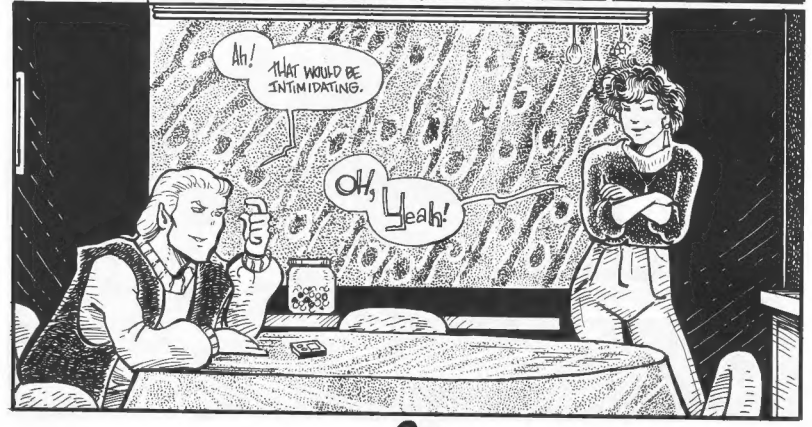
HE ACTUALLY SEEMED TO GET A "HIGH" FROM THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE.
MADISON?
oh, HI, CASANDRA!
UM,...
...hello...
BUT MEKON AND I HAD A LOT TO THINK ABOUT ON THE TRIP BACK.

WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE WORK TO DISTRACT US, BECAUSE THE TRILLIANS HAD TAKEN OVER.
ALL SEVENTY-TWO OF THEM, TAKING TURNS WORKING EACH AND EVERY PART OF THE SHIP.
Z

ZZZ
MM?
AND ELI DID HER BEST TO MAKE SURE NOBODY ACCIDENTALLY SHUT OFF LIFE SUPPORT,...
...OR GRAVITY.

AHH!
CRASH!

ELI!
uh...
...SORRY, CASANDRA.


Ah!
THAT WOULD BE INTIMIDATING.
OH, Yeah!

Heh.
THINGS HAD CHANGED A LOT IN THE EIGHT DAYS THAT WE'D BEEN GONE.
WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KEKAKOPOLOUS INTO THE WAR, THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE OF THE ALLIANCE HAD FALTERED.
AND THE FALL OF RHEARU AND JENKAYLA HAD NOT MADE THINGS BETTER.
JENKAYLA, BEING NEXT ON NARZ'S LIST AFTER RHEARU, HAD SENT ALL OF ITS MILITARY FORCES TO HELP DEFEND RHEARU, IN HOPES THAT TWO PLANETS UNITED WOULD FARE BETTER THAN TWO ALONE.
THEY HAD HOPED TO MAKE ONE GREAT GALAXY-SHAKING STAND AGAINST NARZ AND HIS KEKAKOPOLOUS, AND BOTH HAD SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE OTHER ALLIANCE WORLDS TO GATHER SUPPORT.
BUT IN THE END, THERE WAS NO ONE BUT RHEARU AND JENKAYLA.
IT WAS ALL OVER IN FIVE DAYS.
AND THIS TIME NO ONE ESCAPED TO TELL US THEIR TALE.
ALL WAS SILENT, EXCEPT FOR NARZ, OF COURSE.
WHO ONCE AGAIN LAMENTED THE DESTRUCTION, AND THE LOSS OF SO MANY LIVES,
AND REMINDED US OF THE ADVANTAGES OF SURRENDER.
AND SO, IN THE EIGHT DAYS THAT WE'D BEEN GONE, NARZ HAD QUITE EFFECTIVELY BROKEN THE WILL OF THE ALLIANCE.
NOT THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH THERE TO BEGIN WITH.

EIGHT DAYS.

WE WERE ONLY GONE EIGHT DAYS,

... BUT WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS LAST THREAT FROM THE BONO KIRO WOULD HAVE INSPIRED THE ALLIANCE INTO ACTION.

THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF DECISION.

SOME KIND OF UNITY.

SOME SORT OF PLAN.

SOMETHING THAT THE TRILLIANS COULD WORK WITH.

SOMETHING THAT COULD GET THEM ON TO THE KEKAKOPOLOUS SO THAT THEY COULD WORK THEIR MAGICAL, MECHANICAL CHAOS.

AND PERHAPS EVEN LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR ELLI'S TUL'SAR BLOCKING SIGNAL.

BUT THE ALLIANCE LEADERS~

~UP TO AND INCLUDING THE LEADER OF ITS OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED MEMBER, MACHAVIA~

~DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.

AND SO, THE TRILLIANS DECIDED THAT WHAT WE NEEDED TO DO WAS TO GIVE NARZ EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED.

MACHAVIA

Well,

THEY'VE LANDED THE SHIP.

YOU TWO BETTER GET GOING.

CASANDRA?

YOU... ...DO UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

HMM?

oh, SURE.

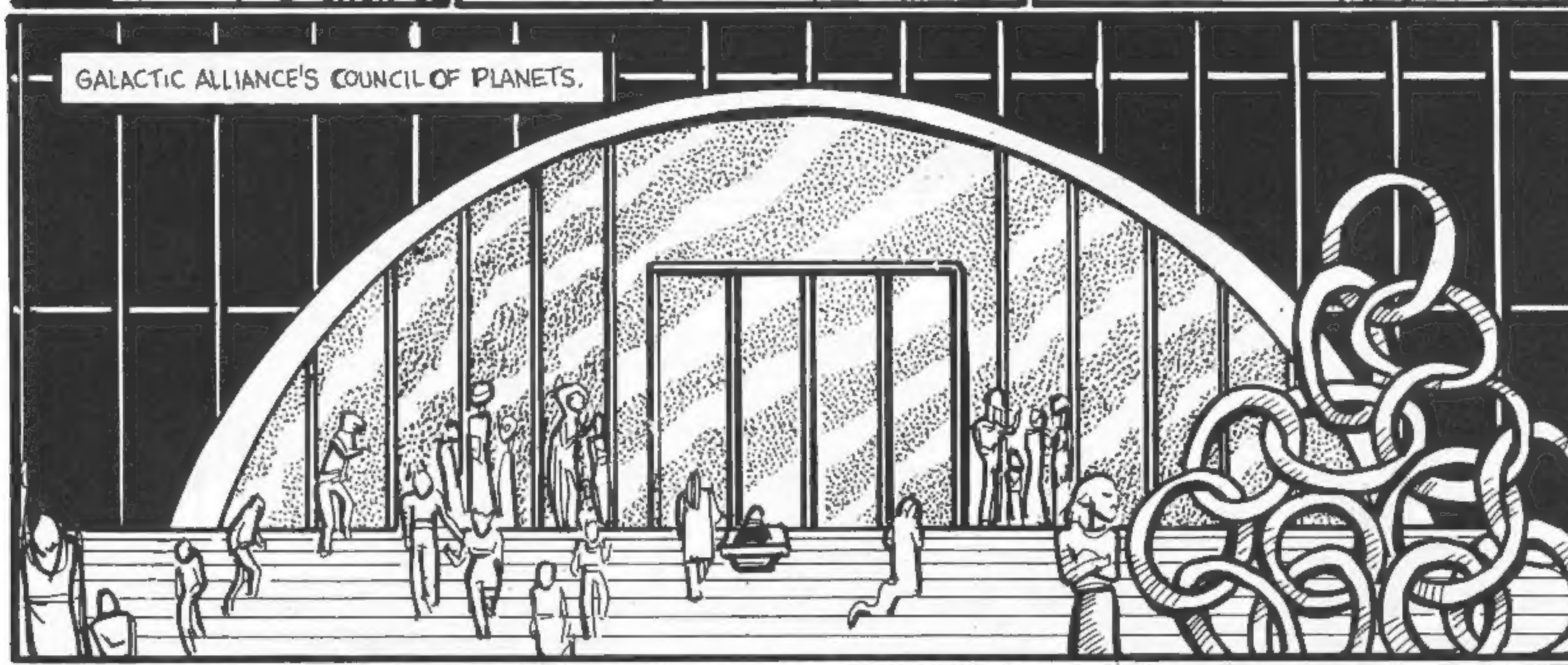
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL JUST TALKING TO THE ALLIANCE LEADERS.

THE LAST THING YOU NEED IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE INFAMOUS, **SAMUAL ANDREWS** COMPLICATING THINGS.

CASANDRA...

REALLY.
IT'S FINE.
I UNDERSTAND.

NOW, YOU BETTER GET GOING.


GALACTIC ALLIANCE'S COUNCIL OF PLANETS.

I THINK IT'S THAT WAY.
THROUGH THAT DOOR.

SIR MEKON!

MEKON DZN APOGAND!
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU HOME AND WELL.
YOUR FATHER WILL BE SO PLEASED!
DO THE HOUSE CREW KNOW THAT YOU'RE BACK YET?
TALGERT! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO. AND NO, THEY DON'T.
UM, TALGERT, THIS IS MY FRIEND, MADISON.
MADISON, THIS IS TALGERT T'KA, HEAD OF MY FATHER'S SECURITY UNIT.
A PLEASURE, MADISON.
SAME..
SO, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I...
...WE...
...WE NEED TO SEE THE COUNCIL.
what?
MEKON, SIR,
...YOU MUST KNOW THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. IT WOULD NOT EVEN BE POSSIBLE IF THERE WASN'T A WAR ON.
I KNOW...
...BUT WE HAVE TO SEE THEM.
YOU SEE, WE MAY HAVE A WAY TO...
MEKON!
YOU CANNOT SEE THE COUNCIL. I'M SORRY.
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH A GREAT DEAL, AND I RESPECT THAT.
AND THE LOSS OF YOUR TWIN SISTER MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY HARD...
BUT YOU ARE THE SON OF OUR LORD! YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO...
TALGERT, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.
NOTHING.
AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT MY RESPONSIBILITIES THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.
MEKON, CALM YOURSELF. I'M GOING TO CALL YOUR HOUSE'S COUNSELOR, AND YOU CAN TALK TO HIM. IF HE DEEMS WHAT YOU SAY IMPORTANT, THEN PERHAPS I CAN...
No! TALGERT!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
Excuse Me.

...BUT I'M AFRAID,
...THAT WE REALLY MUST SEE THEM. NOW.
Sigh.
YEAH, MEKON.
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT.

God?
Look,
...I'M STILL NOT SURE IF YOU REALLY EXIST.
BUT I NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO SO I'M GIVING YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT,
...okay?
WHERE DO I START?
I HAVE A MILLION THINGS I NEED TO TALK ABOUT.
AND A TRAFFIC JAM IN MY HEAD.
ALRIGHT, WHAT SAY WE JUST PICK ONE TOPIC FOR TODAY, EH? SAMUAL ANDREWS. TRAITOR OF THE ALLIANCE.
MURDERER OF EARTH.
My Father.
God, what — HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FEEL ABOUT HIM?
HOW?
I MEAN, I REMEMBER SO MANY GOOD THINGS THAT HE DID.
SO MANY KIND THINGS.
I REMEMBER HOW STRONG HE WAS WHEN MOTHER DIED.
And I remember LOVING him.
But, He was a MONSTER!
AND EVERYWHERE I GO, I'M HIS DAUGHTER!

PART OF ME WANTS TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND MY FATHER AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT HE DID WAS...
...WHAT HE DID WAS...
...IT WAS...
Sigh.
...I GUESS YOU'D KNOW, HUH?
I...
...I DON'T WANT TO BE HIS DAUGHTER!
I DON'T WANT TO!
...But...
...But...
But...
...I THINK,
...SOMETIMES,
...THAT IT WAS ALL NARZ'S FAULT!
...THAT IF IT WASN'T FOR NARZ...!
BUT, I...
...I DON'T KNOW...
SIGH
IF YOU EXIST, GOD,
...I WISH THAT YOU WOULD SAY SOMETHING,
...DO SOMETHING,
...ANYTHING!
SO I'D KNOW I'M NOT ALONE.
OR AT LEAST...
...I WISH THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE I COULD LEAN ON!
JUST FOR A MOMENT!
I AM SO TIRED OF BEING STRONG.
I AM SO TIRED!
GOD, I MISS MY FRIENDS FROM EARTH.
I MISS THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.
IT WAS SO IMPERFECT.
YET SO VERY INNOCENT.
I...
...WAS SO INNOCENT.
I USED TO BE SO PROUD TO WEAR MY JUNIOR SECURITY SQUAD UNIFORM.
WE ALL WERE.
WE THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHEN WE WORE IT.
IT MADE US FEEL LIKE HEROES.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY DAVID AND KAYLIN, AND MARIE, AND GREG DID WHAT THEY COULD TO FIGHT THE BONO KIRD WHEN THEY TOOK OVER THE EARTH

THEY WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THIS NEXT BATTLE.
BIP! BOP! BEEP! BOOP!
SWOOSH!
WHEW!
Hello!
HELLO AGAIN, LITTLE ONE.
SO, IS SITTING ON THE FLOOR PROPER BEHAVIOR FOR THE SON OF THE GREAT MACHAVIAN LORD?
Today,
...MOST DEFINITELY.

Well, Well.
Welcome back.
WHAT'S THAT?
IS THAT A UNIFORM?
OF A SORTS, YES.
OKAY.
HEY, HOW LONG WERE WE GONE?
ABOUT EIGHTEEN HOURS.
EIGHTEEN?
Hah...
...I THOUGHT MAYBE TEN...
... BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT!
IT WORKED!
THE TRILLIANS CONVINCED THEM!
DON'T BE SO MODEST, MEKON!

YOU HAD A LOT TO DO WITH IT.
THAT SPEECH THAT YOU MADE...
YOU MADE A SPEECH?
Well,
...Not REALLY.
It...
It just sorta HAPPENED.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
THEY'RE GOING TO START CALLING IN ALL OF THE ALLIANCE'S FORCES INTO FOBIEN SPACE TONIGHT.
FOBIEN?
Yes.
IT'S THE NEXT ALLIANCE WORLD ON NARZ'S PATH.
BUT WE'LL BE THERE.
AND WE'LL MAKE OUR STAND.
AND WE'LL WIN.
WAHOO, MEKON!
LET'S GO KICK SOME BIG OL' FAT BONO KIRIAN BUTT!
Well,
...THAT IS SORT OF THE PLAN.

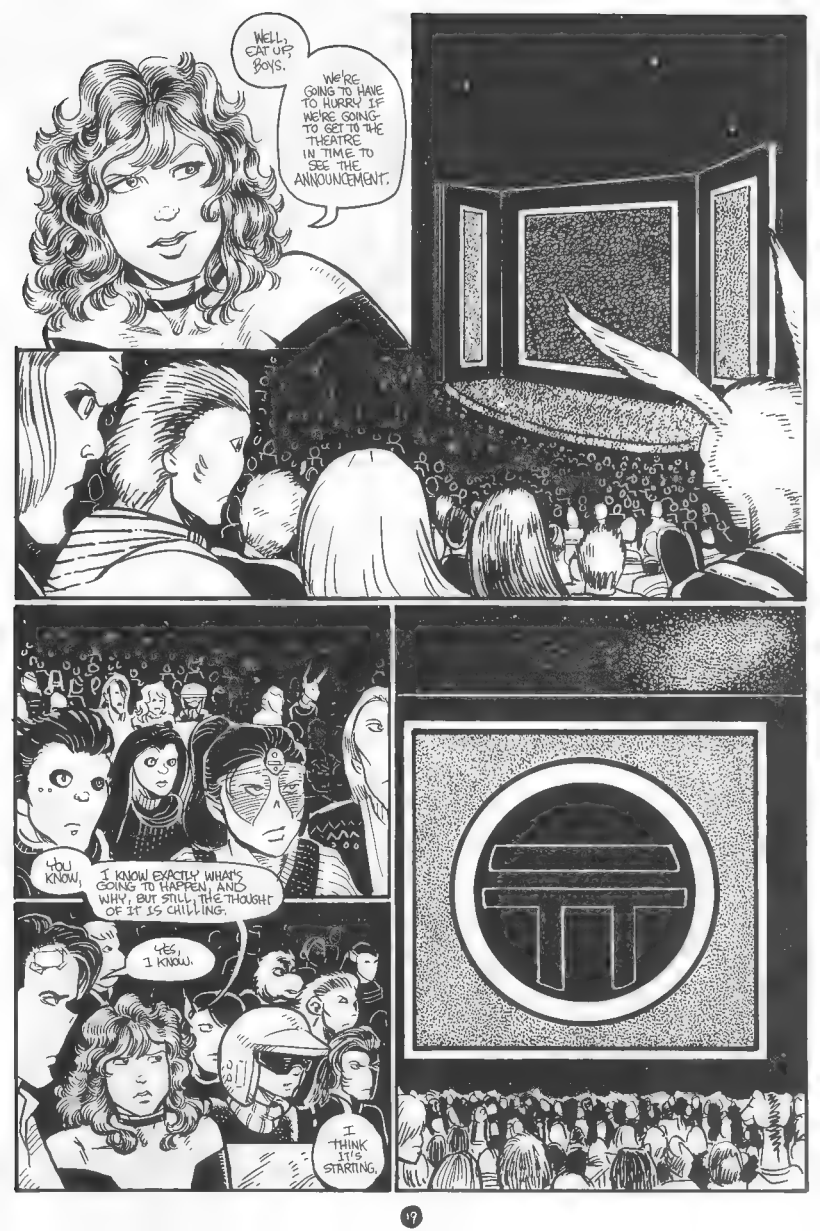
ANYWAY, WE'LL BE LEAVING FOR FOBE IN THREE HOURS,
SO IF YOU NEED ANYTHING,
...YOU'D BETTER GO GET IT NOW.
FOBE
WANDERING STAR
HEY!
FINDER
TOOK YA LONG ENOUGH!
JOBY!
HI! WE MISSED YA!
CASS...
...UH...
...WHAT'S...
...WHAT'S...? WITH...
UM,
...WELL,
...ANYWAY...
FINDER
OH,
THIS.
I'M WEARING IT FOR OUR FRIENDS.
OH.

...ALL OF US FIGHTERS ARE HAVING A BIG PARTY TONIGHT,
BEFORE THE ALLIANCE MAKES ITS BIG ANNOUNCEMENT.
Party?
HEY, MAN!
WHAT'S TH' NAME OF TH' SONG?
YA KNOW—
LAH LAH LAH LAHHH!
I DON'T KNOW.
SHHHURRRE, YA DO!
AW, MAN! IT'S RIGHT ON TH' TIP OF MY TONGUE.
LISTEN!
LAH LAH LAH LAH LAH LAH LAH!
PLEASE, GO AWAY.
LAHHH!
LOOKS LIKE JOBY'S WORKING ON THE RACE RELATIONS.
YES!
A SHAME, ISN'T IT?
SO, THIS IS ROBE, HUH?
YES.
IT'S A NICE WORLD.
I THINK SO.
MADISON,
HAVE YOU...?
I MEAN, ARE YOU...?

"GOING TO CONTACT MY FAMILY"?
yes.
NO.
MADISON...
LOOK, CASANDRA, I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE ABOUT IT.
NOT RIGHT NOW.
please.
okay.
SO, HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS FOR AFTER THE WAR, IF WE WIN?
Well, YES, actually.
YEAH? WHAT?
UM, I'M ... NOT SURE YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
oh, THANKS.
CASANDRA, I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT.
IT'S JUST THAT IT HAS TO DO WITH THE TRILLIANS.
WHAT WE SAW,
... WHAT I SAW IN THEIR WORLD MIND.
I KNOW THAT YOU WERE PRETTY PSYCHED AFTERWARDS.
yes.
GLIMPSING THAT HARMONY, THAT UNDERSTANDING,
...WHILE WE WERE THERE, IT SEEMED TO ANSWER ALL OF MY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNIVERSE. QUESTIONS I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WERE THERE.
BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK IN THE "REAL" WORLD...
IT'S GONE. ALL OF IT.
EXCEPT THE REALIZATION OF HOW COMPLETELY UNINVOLVED YOU ARE.
YES.
BUT I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO TRY TO BE LIKE THEM.
WHAT?
MADISON! THEY ARE LIKE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AHEAD OF US.
IF... IF YOU THINK YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR BODY BEHIND,
... BECOME ENERGY...
NO,
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
Heh.
IT'S JUST THAT THEY'RE GOOD.
THAT'S THE ONLY WORD I CAN THINK OF THAT FITS.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO ASPIRE TO.
I THINK I'M GOING TO FIND SOME QUIET PLACE, MAYBE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND TRY.

I'VE LOST YOU, HAVEN'T I?
Well,
...NOT COMPLETELY
CASANDRA, COULD YOU PASS THIS DOWN TO MADISON?
SURE.
Click
THANKS.
YOU KNOW, THEY ARE COOKING SOME REALLY HORRIBLE THINGS OVER THERE.
Well, SURE.
WITH ALL THE RACES REPRESENTED HERE...
...SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF FOOD WOULD HAVE TO SEEM ICKY.
NO.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SOME OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE,
HOW'D JOEY PUT IT?
"WIRED FOR SOUND"?
AND THEY'RE DARING EACH OTHER TO EAT THINGS.
EEEW!
I AGREE.
BWAH HAH HAH HAH!
HEY! HEY!
I WAN'CHA ALL TA MEET MY GOOD FRIEND...
CHEE HEE HEE HEE!
"MY GOOD GOOD FRIEND..."

Uh, WHAT WAS YER NAME AGAIN?
DEVON.
OH, YEAH.
HIS NAME'S DEVON, O'Kay?
Hey! Hey!
Any'o you SEEN A KITTY-CAT AROUND HERE?
A CAT?
YEAH!
IF YA SEE'ER,
...YA DIDN'T SEE ME, KAY?
UH, SURE.
WELL GOTTA GO...
"SEE YA!
Hey DEV, D'YA KNOW THAT SONG?
HOW'Z IT GO?
"EARTH THING", MADISON?
DEFINITELY.
HEY!
"EARTH THING", NOTHING!
LAH! LAH! LAH! LAH!
I AM THE PICTURE OF DIGNITY.
OH YEAH, TONIGHT!
OH, Poof!
Poof!
POOFIE ON YOU!
LOOKS LIKE TONIGHT'S BLOWN, TOO.
POOF!


WELL, EAT UP BOYS.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HURRY IF WE'RE GOING TO GET TO THE THEATRE IN TIME TO SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
YOU KNOW,
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, AND WHY, BUT STILL, THE THOUGHT OF IT IS CHILLING.
YES, I KNOW.
I THINK IT'S STARTING.

MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, I, SHALEER ZEN APPOSAND, LORD OF MACHAVIA.
...REPRESENTING ALL OF THE WORLD LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL OF PLANETS,
...COME TO YOU TODAY WITH A HEART FULL OF SADNESS, AND YET FULL OF HOPE.
SADNESS, BECAUSE OF ALL THAT WE HAVE SUFFERED IN THIS WAR.
SADNESS OVER THE TRAGIC LOSSES ON MA'DIVES,
...ON RHEARU,
...AND ON JENKAVLA
AND YET HOPE...
...THAT WE CAN PREVENT MORE LIVES FROM BEING LOST.
HOPE THAT WORLDS CAN BE SAVED.
AND HOPE THAT THERE CAN BE PEACE BETWEEN US AND THE BONO KIRO.
IN THREE DAYS,
...WHEN THE DESTROYER KEKAKOFOLOUS ENTERS FOGHEN SPACE,
...A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ALLIANCE WILL BE THERE TO MEET WITH COMMANDER NARZ...
...TO GIVE HIM OUR TERMS...
...FOR SURRENDER.

How Disappointing.
But I am NOT surprised.
I knew that the Alliance had no spirit, and little courage.

But I had hoped.

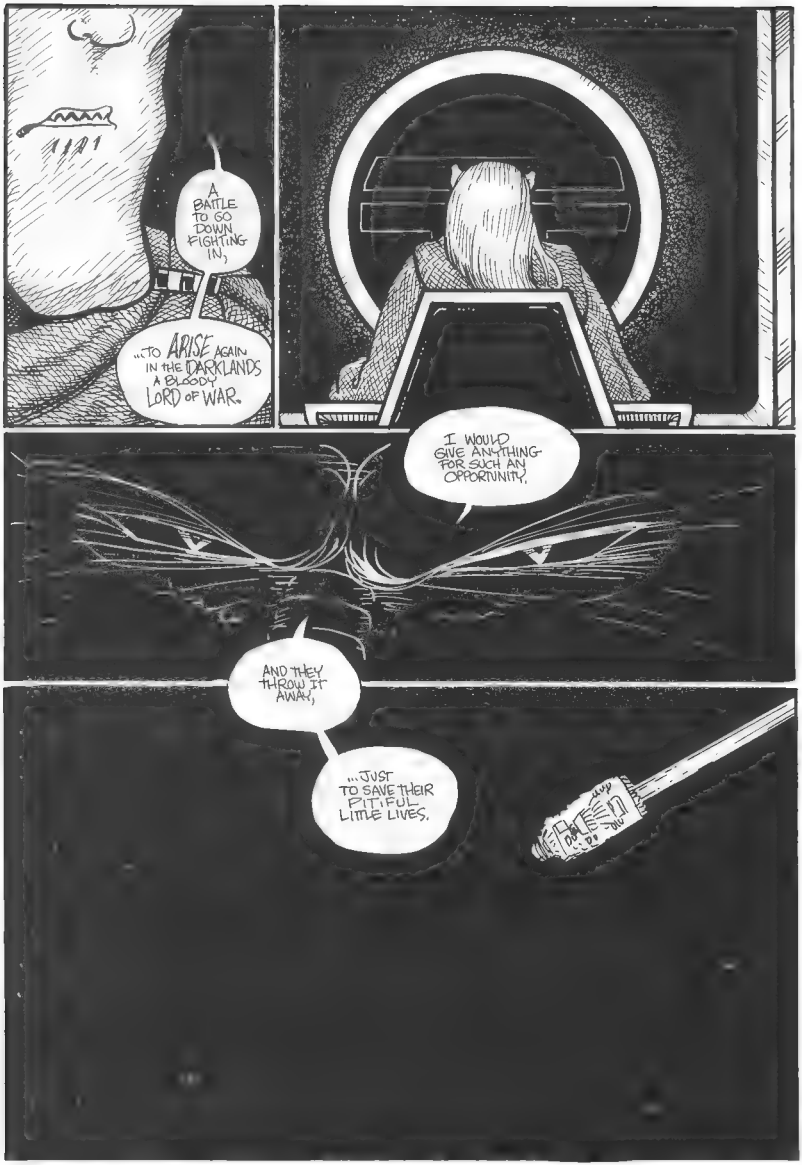
Had the Alliance united, they may have proved a worthy opponent, but INSTEAD they have chosen the coward's path.

The Alliance will be FODDER for the TWINS in the DARKLANDS.

But then,

"So shall I.

For what chance have I to prove myself to the TWINS?
In this age of modern war, where will I find my battle against impossible odds?


A BATTLE TO GO DOWN FIGHTING IN,
...TO ARISE AGAIN IN THE DARKLANDS A BLOODY LORD OF WAR.
I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING FOR SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY,
AND THEY THROW IT AWAY,
...JUST TO SAVE THEIR PITIFUL LITTLE LIVES.

WANDERING thoughts

PO BOX 474, BEAUMONT CA 92223-0474

Howdy-do, Teri Sue!

I would like to thank you for the wonderful story you've given us, the readers, in WANDERING STAR. I'm excited, yet sad, that WS is going to end in a few months. Other than STAR WARS, WS is the only "science fiction" I can get into. STAR TREK, X-FILES, Asimov, and (especially) Harlan Ellison, just don't do a thing for me! I still keep coming back to WS issue after issue. I'm afraid there's not much else to say about the series, as a whole, that hasn't been said better by hundreds of other folks! Thanks for a consistent great read!

WANDERING STAR issue 19 was an exceptional issue, however. WS #19 is the first comic to bring a tear to my eye since THE NEW TEEN TITANS #16 by Marv Wolfman and George Perez... waaay back in 1981. Casandra and Elli's conversation on pages #5 and #6 struck a very personal nerve with me. Powerful stuff, Teri! It just goes to show how the comic book medium can affect and reflect the reader's aspects. Norman's letter and short story were also touching. Was it coincidence that Norman's letter appeared in WS the week of Valentine's Day, or was this your personal valentine to your readers? Either way, it was sure a heck of a lot better than flowers and candy, Teri. Thank you!

I also wish to thank you for being an inspiration to me, Teri. It seems that no matter what kind of crap "the bird of paradise" poops on you car, you keep on trudging through and put the work out.

DON'T GIT TH'SWELLED HEAD, MISSY!!! I'VE STILL GOT A MAJOR BONE TA PICK WIT'YOU! What's with the green eyeshadow Cassie sports on th'covers!??! BLECH!!! As the great sage Jerry Clower would say, "It looks like her gall bladder had busted!"

That's it. My sole gripe... so there!

While I'm here, I'll toss in a plug for GUN DOG COMICS in Tupelo, MS... Rob and Steve Snell (the owners) and Allen Giglio (the manager) do an outstanding job of pushing WANDERING STAR. Everyone who shops there doesn't purchase WS, but they sure know it's there! Allen is especially supportive (but I think it's only cuz he came in 34rd place in the "Name Oliver's Political Party" contest.) It'd be nifty if you could see it in yer heart to pay us a visit here in Mississippi. I've met creators like Barry and Jenni Gregory, Mark Waid, Marc Silvestri, Kathryn Boligner, Joe St. Pierre, Mark Largent, Mark McCrary, and Eric Younge at the various Gun Dog locations. Meeting the creators of the books I read seems to add a personal touch. We'd luv ta'have ya set a spell! Hey, I'll even help foot part of the bill! You sure wouldn't have to worry about food! We'll fire up the grill and show ya what a hamburger is SUPPOSED to taste like!

And... if ya play yer cards right... I'll show ya some real "Southern Comfort"... Yahh, you guessed it... I'm an incurable, flirting dog!

Seriously, I wish you continued success and praises. I'm looking forward to the concluding chapters of WANDERING STAR, but I will miss Cassie, Madison, and the gang when it's gone.

Luv n'prayers,
David Oliver Burcham
Saltillo, MS

P.S. See! My middle name is Oliver! It's kismet! It was meant to be!!! "Sob!" "Sigh!"

Uh huh. I've heard it all before, tempt me with hamburgers and break my heart. Yep. And this I'm supposed ta believe

when, lo' and behold, what doth appear in my post box but a letter from... GUN DOG COMICS in Tupelo, MS!!! From Allen Giglio himself! Uh huh.

And hey, I already SAID I was obsessed with green. Okay? Okay.

Anyway, here's Allen's letter...

Teri,

I just got caught up on my reading. I love what you are doing with WANDERING STAR and I hate to see it end, but I see the end of the 12... 14... 18...21-issue story arc looming ahead. The book has come a long way since I pulled that first issue out of the back issue box at Gun Dog Comics three years ago. I had no idea what it was, but it was signed and cover price so I thought I'd check it out. I was sucked back into comics after MANY years of not reading them (like so many others) and was looking for something DIFFERENT. Luckily Steve Snell at Gun Dog Comics pointed me towards several independent books that were so far removed from all the guys in capes and tights that I decided to check them out. WS was the first one I came back and got more of.

Well, times have changed some and I am now the manager of Gun Dog Comics in Tupelo, and I keep steering people towards your book. At first I billed WS as a warm and fluffy version of STAR WARS but then you went and let the story get all dark and menacing (GREAT JOB!!!!!) so I had to start selling it as a "Space Opera Thingy." Sorry I couldn't come up with a better description, but I always go on to tell them that it has some of the best art and writing around. Plus it has 1 of the 2 (can't leave out POISON ELVES) coolest letter and editorial pages around. I actually read these before I read the book. It never ceases to amaze me the trials and tribulations that you report to us monthly and the way you seem to just roll with the punches and come out stronger.

It's been one hell of a ride and I can't wait to see how it ends.

I'm looking forward to DARKLIGHT, don't take too long off!

Will the tpb Vol 2 ever come out? Consider a second printing of #10?

Later,
Allen Giglio
GUN DOG COMICS
109-C Rankin Ext.
Tupelo, MS 38801

P.S. I had a real cool WS display for your contest. Just never took a picture.

P.P.S. Give my best to Oliver. Oh yeah, and Tru...

P.P.P.S. When you gonna ditch that word processor and get a REAL computer... one word, E-MAIL!!!!! After all, you do write sci-fi, and it is almost the 21st Century.

P.P.P.P.S. If you get out this way, stop in and say "HI!" You got a lot of fans in Tupelo. Atlanta's only a five hour drive... hint... hint.

I gotta get to Tupelo. Hamburgers, comic shops, and people who actually read my book. Wow. (But I still think this is some kinda deep, dark plot. I am a writer after all, and we tend ta have really active imaginations...)

And ya had a DISPLAY??? And ya didn't take a picture??? Darn darn darn! But thank ya fer pushing my little book, and don't worry, I don't know how to describe it either. I've been asked time and time again by retailers, but I'm clueless. It's... just a story to me. It just goes where it goes. Sigh.

But HEY!!! Don't be picking on me fer not having a computer. I WANT ONE! I WANT ONE BAD!!! I go into computer stores just to look at them. To... to TOUCH them. I even... TALK to them sometimes... (I need a vacation.)

And hey, ya don't hav'ta wait too long fer DARKLIGHT. There's... a little preview in this very issue. Can ya figure out where? Bwah hah hah hah!

Oh, and the trades are coming. I just gotta finish this here story first.

And with that, back ta work again, jiggity-jig.

Missing Children
Help Center
National Missing Children Division
National Child Safety Council
410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400
Tampa, Florida 33619

SHANNON MARIE CONNELLY

Missing/Endangered

SHANNON MARIE CONNELLY

Missing:	11/29/96	**Age Now:**	13 yrs 7 mths
Missing From:	ST CLOUD FL	**Age Disap.:**	13
Birth:	05/14/83	**Race:**	White
Sex:	Female	**Eyes:**	Brown
Height:	5' 4"	**Weight:**	130 lbs.
Hair:	Straight Brown		

ID Info: EARS PIERCED 3 TIMES EACH. NCIC # M 982416191

Circum: SHANNON MAY BE IN THE COMPANY OF A 30 YEAR OLD WHITE MALE. HE IS 6'1, 240. RED BROWN HAIR, BROWN EYES, PIERCED BELLY BUTTON. HE DRIVES A BEIGE LINCOLN TOWN CAR.

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

Missing Children...HELP Center at 1-800-USA-KIDS

OR

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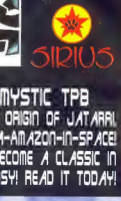

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